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JUSTICE  
FOR ALL”**

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**USDA**  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Form AD-425-C (Revised 9/2006)

## Helena Township Parks & Recreation: Community Survey

Mike Crawford	231-676-1000
Steve Dell	231-331-5025
Jeannie Peebles	989-619-1277
Jim Gurr	231-331-6397
Jan Loveland	231-331-5023
Bonnie Robbins	231-350-1265
Ruth Smith	231-331-6810



# Helena Township Parks & Recreation: Community Survey

Michigan State University Extension  
Greening Michigan Institute  
Government and Public Policy Team

**Bethany E. Prykucki**  
Extension Educator  
[prykucki@msu.edu](mailto:prykucki@msu.edu)



# Budget and Census data

- Population of Helena Township from 2010 Census = 1,027

FUND	EXPENSES
2017-2018	2017-2018
	584990.00
101 ASSESSOR	19861.00
101 ASSESS EXP	2555.00
209 CEMETERY	31179.00
101 CLERK WAGE	24422.00
101 DEP CLERK	6120.00
101 CLERK EXP	2648.00
265 COMM CTR	75697.00
101 ELECTIONS	8000.00
101 GEN'L FUND	184861.00
101 PARKS MAINT	42786.00
101 PARKS PROJEC	8000.00
101 ZNG ADMINIST	17121.00
101 PL/ZNG EXPEN	5455.00
203 ROADS	93577.00
101 SUPER WAGE	24422.00
101 TREAS WAGE	24422.00
101 DEPUTY TREAS	6120.00
101 TREAS EXPENS	2744.00
209 CEM SEXTON	5000.00
IN/OUT SCH TAX	5610.00

\$50,786

Or

8.68% of  
budget



# Coy Mountain





## Depot Park



## Tennis Court Park



## Ball Park





## Community Center and Library



## Safe Harbor and Harbor Park



## Archie Valleau Landing



## Public Road End Lake Access



## How important are these resources?

- The majority of people responding indicated all of the parks and resources listed were “important” to “very important”
- 32.69% are “not familiar” with Archie Valteau Landing





How most people learn about the parks and recreation programs activities, and resources:



## How often in the last 12 months have you used each resource:

- Most people indicate use between 1-10 times for all EXCEPT
  - Ballpark- 54.25% Never
  - Archie Valleau Landing 36.54% Never



## Opinions on the overall condition and level of maintenance for each park:

- A majority of those responding believed the overall condition and level of maintenance for each township resource was average to excellent.
- Poor or below average combined was:
  - Coy Mountain- 18.42%
  - Ball Park- 24.08%
  - Public Road End Access- 16.03%



## Level of agreement with each hypothetical action to improve the park system -

- The majority of respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with:
  - “Re-developing/upgrading existing parks to support a broader range of activities” (69.87%)
  - “Develop new trails” (64.74%)
- The majority of respondents “disagreed” or “strongly disagreed” with:
  - “No additional parks or changes to current resources are needed” (63.46%)
  - “Acquiring land for future parks and/or open spaces” (21.8%)



## Supporting the development of a recreational trail system in Helena Township:

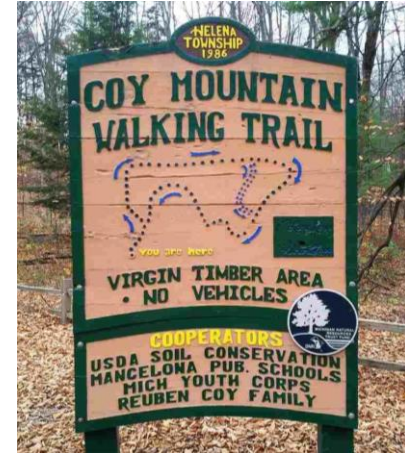
- 78% said yes
- 21% said no





## Top 3 Trails with highest priority:

1. Paved trails for walking, biking, etc. – 45.24%
2. Nature trails for viewing plants and wildlife – 42.06%
3. Trails that link with other existing trails – 41.27%



## Under-served groups by the current recreation resources and/or programs:

- 40.77% of respondents believe “All groups are served adequately
- 28.46% believe “Seniors” are underserved
- 24.64% believe “People with disabilities” are underserved



## Top 5 activities participated in:

1. Walking/Running/Hiking – 70.47%
2. Swimming/Water Activities – 67.79%
3. Kayaking/Boating – 53.69%
4. Relaxing – 53.69%
5. Picnic – 40.94%



## Top 5 recreation facilities/resources those would **MOST** like to see added:

1. Walking/Jogging Paths – 60.81%
2. Bike Paths/Trails – 50.00%
3. Additional bathrooms/drinking fountains – 30.41%
4. More accessible facilities/resources for older people or people with disabilities – 27.03%
5. Additional benches – 25.68%



## **Top 5 programs, classes or activities those would MOST like to see:**

1. Outdoor concerts – 49.65%
2. Aerobics, spinning, or fitness instruction/classes – 27.97%
3. Science or nature classes – 25.87%
4. Yoga, meditation, or stress relief classes – 24.48%
5. Arts or crafts instruction or classes – 20.98%

\*The results of this will be shared with the Helena Public Library for possible future planning





## **The most important priorities Helena Township Parks and Recreation should consider when providing services to residents -**

- The majority chose:
  - “Protection of natural areas and the environment” (70%)
  - “Provide opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors” (50.67%)



## Support for and against each possible project:

	SUPPORT	DON'T SUPPORT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Create a master plan for Ball Park that might include some of the projects listed below.	61.38% 89	12.41% 18	26.21% 38	145	3.00
Expand the parking area in Ball Park	34.03% 49	25.69% 37	40.28% 58	144	3.00
Install a handicap accessible pathway from the parking area to a new viewing platform by the lake at Ball Park.	54.05% 80	15.54% 23	30.41% 45	148	3.00
Build a sand play area at Ball Park near the water but several feet back from the water's edge.	42.36% 61	22.22% 32	35.42% 51	144	3.00
Move the volleyball courts from Depot Park to Ball Park.	26.53% 39	44.90% 66	28.57% 42	147	3.00
At Ball Park, modify the ball diamond area to create a multi-sport area which might include baseball, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, etc.	46.98% 70	18.12% 27	34.90% 52	149	3.00
Create a Master Plan for Coy Mountain Preserve that might include some of the projects listed below.	64.08% 91	12.68% 18	23.24% 33	142	3.00
Expand Coy Mountain Preserve through the acquisition of additional land.	58.62% 85	23.45% 34	17.93% 26	145	3.00
Rework the trail system at Coy Mountain Preserve to make it more user friendly.	63.89% 92	13.89% 20	22.22% 32	144	3.00



# Support for and against each possible project, continued:

	SUPPORT	DON'T SUPPORT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Add a handicap accessible parking area and pathway at Coy Mountain Preserve.	45.77% 65	21.13% 30	33.10% 47	142	3.00
Leave Coy Mountain Preserve as a natural area removing trees only for safety reasons.	59.31% 86	20.69% 30	20.00% 29	145	3.00
Actively manage the forest in Coy Mountain Preserve removing all dead and diseased trees to promote new growth.	60.00% 87	22.76% 33	17.24% 25	145	3.00
Create a Master Plan for Depot Park that might include some of the following projects.	70.90% 95	11.19% 15	17.91% 24	134	3.00
Make Depot Park a truly accessible park so that all areas of the park can be visited by persons with disabilities.	67.83% 97	11.19% 16	20.98% 30	143	3.00
Put a walking path around the perimeter of Depot Park.	43.06% 62	34.03% 49	22.92% 33	144	3.00
Expand the pavilion in Tennis Court Park.	35.62% 52	29.45% 43	34.93% 51	146	3.00
Establish an additional pickleball court by putting pickleball lines on the second tennis court (Currently we have pickleball lines on one tennis court).	31.29% 46	31.29% 46	37.41% 55	147	3.00
Install a dedicated pickleball court (just for pickleball)	21.77% 32	38.78% 57	39.46% 58	147	3.00



## Review of additional input questions:

- When you think about your experience at the Helena Township Community Center, Coy Mountain Preserve, Bal Park, Tennis Court Park, Dept Park, Safe Harbor and Harbor Park, Archie Valleau Landing, or the Public Road End Lake Accesses, what suggestions would you make to improve them.



## Review of additional input questions:

- Please Provide any additional information, opinions, or comments related to Helena Township's Parks and Recreation resources (parks, trails, lake accesses and related facilities and activities) and/or the direction and priorities of the parks and recreation committee.



**Brainstorm ways Ball Park could score higher in the next survey for overall condition and level of maintenance :**



**Brainstorm ways Coy Mountain could score higher in the next survey for overall condition and level of maintenance:**

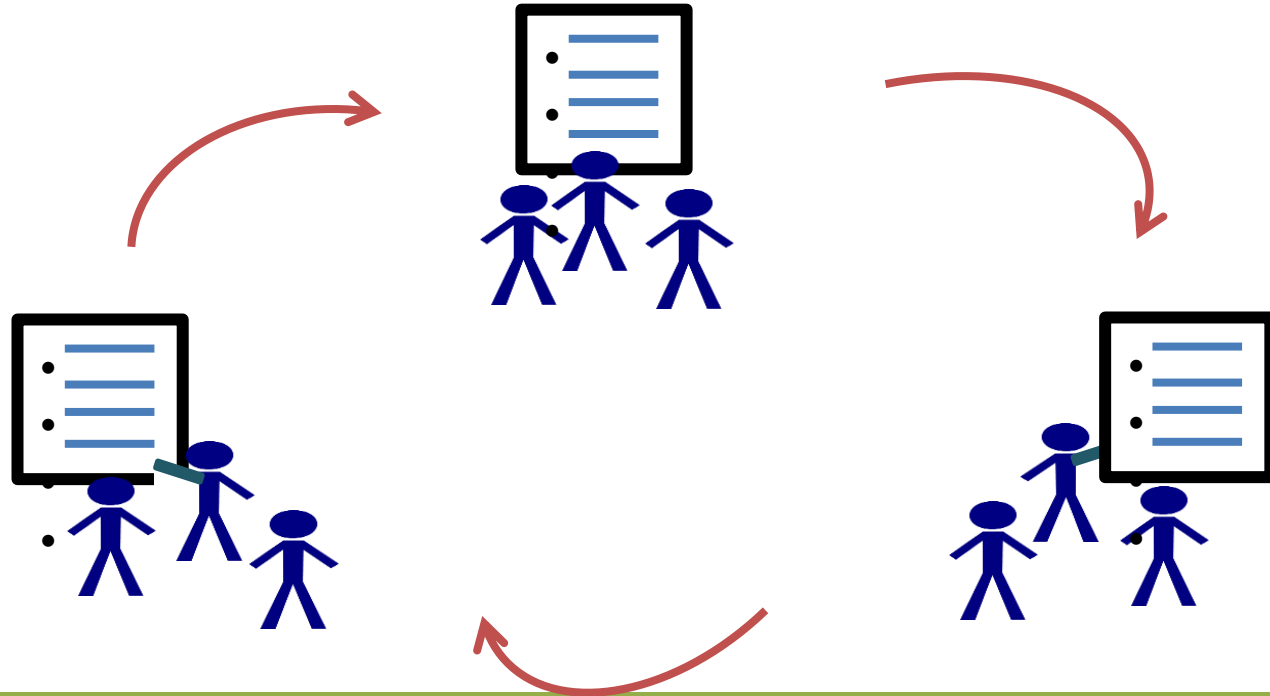




**Brainstorm ways Public Road End Access  
could score higher in the next survey for  
overall condition and level of maintenance:**

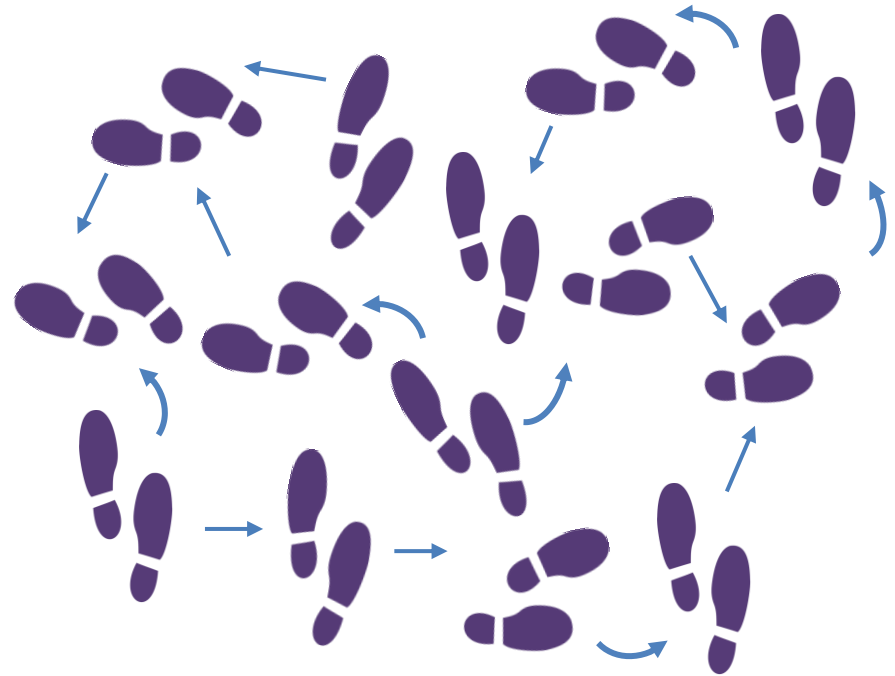


## Where would like the facilities/resources added? Rotating Flip Charts



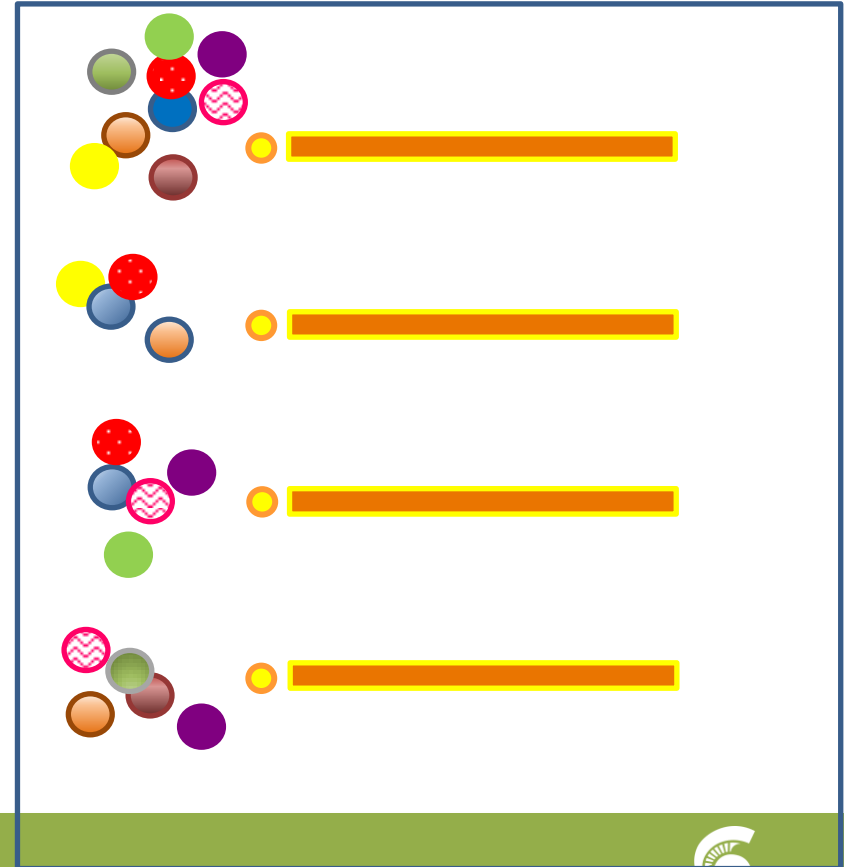
## Extension Shuffle Questions

- What does “protection of natural areas and the environment” look like?”
- What does “Provide opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors” look like?”



Prioritize projects the  
Parks and Recreation  
Committee has discussed

### Sticky Dot Voting



**Thank you!**

**Questions?**

**Bethany E. Prykucki**  
Extension Educator  
[prykucki@msu.edu](mailto:prykucki@msu.edu)



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